(c) According to information received from the State Government, instruction have been issued to all Collectors to keep a watch on the purchase of paddy by the agents of millers and to see that MSP is paid to the farmers. They have also been requested to ensure that the millers and their agents issue correct vendor receipts to the farmers for the purchase of paddy. The State Government has further pointed out that any lapse would be handled with firmness and be dealt with under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.

Fall in annual employment growth

*68. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's annual employment growth rate has fallen to one per cent during the last seven years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the growth in the public sector employment has severely come down from 2.17 per cent during 1983—89 to 0.03 per cent during 1991—2000;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefore; and

(d) what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (d) As per the survey carried out by the National Sample Survey Organization during 1993-1994 and 1999-2000, the average annual growth rate of employment was of the order of 1% as per Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status Approach during 1993-94 to 1999-2000.

As per the information collected Employment Market Information Programme of Directorate General of Employment and Training, the average growth rate of employment in public sector which was of the order of 2.08% per annum during 1983—89 has come down to around 0.15% per annum during the period 1991—2000. Lack of upgradation of the technologies due to financial constraints, production being non-competitive price-wise and quality-wise, compulsion to run non-profitable industries in the private sector influenced maintenance of employment level and creation of new jobs in the public sector. Due to increased competition and the need to right size, there is a limited scope

for employment creation in the public sector. As per the demand of employment in the labour market, training and re-training is being emphasised so that it has favourable impact on employment.

C.V.C's response to the references from MPs

*69. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2555 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th March, 1999, and state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has not been following the instructions of the Cabinet Secretariat relating to references from Members of Parliament and not at all responding to such references;

(b) if not, the number of such letters received by C.V.C. since April, 2000 onwards, how many of them have been acknowledged and how many of them have been replied to; and

(c) the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS WELFARE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The references from the Members of Parliament in the Central Vigilance Commission generally refer to the complaints against public servants. As per the practice being followed in the Commission, such letters from MPs are acknowledged. Thereafter, the Commission, keeping in view the nature of allegations contained in the complaint, takes appropriate action as under:—

(i) If the allegations are serious and verifiable, the complaint is forwarded either to the Central Bureau of Investigation or to the Chief Vigilance Officer concerned for investigation and report;

(ii) If the allegations are administrative in nature, the complaint is forwarded to the concerned administrative authority for appropriate action; and

(iii) If the allegations are vague or general in nature, the complaint is filed.

The Commission is primarily an advisory body, which renders advice at each stage of disciplinary action contemplated or initiated. The Commission does not have its own investigating agency. It gives advice to the concerned